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CIA/USIB  
SNIE 50-2-64  
dated 25 May 1964  
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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC 4298-81


13 July 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM: Chairman, National Intelligence Council  
SUBJECT: Estimates on Vietnam 1962-1964

1. Attached is NIE 53-63, the only estimate produced in the 1962-1964 period that fits your description.

2. This estimate has an interesting history. As originally written and coordinated with the Community representatives, its conclusions were thoroughly pessimistic. At USIB, however, Mr. McCone severely criticized Sherman Kent and sent ONE back to the drawing boards. The revised paper, included here, was approved over the protests of the responsible analysts.

3. I have also attached a typical "contingency estimate" of the period.

  
Henry S. Rowen

Attachments:

- 1 - NIE 53-63, 17 April 1963  
Prospects in South Vietnam
- 2 - SNIE 50-2-64, 25 May 1964  
TS # 0038277, Copy 1, Series B

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